



# Spark Gap

Vol. 36, Issue 8, August 2020 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for thirty-six years*

## ***ON OUR M.A.R.C.:***

As you heard on the Sunday night net, our monthly meeting will be held at the Club radio room in the garage area this month. We are going to attempt to also have access for on the air meeting at the same time over our repeater for those who can't attend or still being careful. We will have a quick check in for those listening.

There are a few things you need to know about the meeting:

1. Facemasks are REQUIRED per the Johnson County Director of Emergency Management, who makes this space available for our Club to use. We also need to social distance.
2. Bring your own chair unless you prefer to stand for the whole meeting.
3. No coffee or food will be served, so you will have to bring your own.
4. VE testing will happen after the meeting, but ONLY for those who have PRE-REGISTERED via the Club website. And FACEMASKS WILL BE REQUIRED for test candidates also.

Club radio room is located at 1 Caisson Drive, Franklin, IN. If you have never been there, talk in will be on our repeater.

It's not too late to throw your hat into the ring for an officer's position in the MARC for the 2020-21 year. If you hold a valid Amateur Radio license and your dues are current, full member of the club, you can run for President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer. You can nominate someone at the meeting but before nominating someone, please check with them to see if they are interested in an office. The slate will be finalized at the meeting on Aug. 15th with balloting up until the September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Once the slate is finalized, Chris Read will email out all ballots to paid members and if we don't have an email address, one will be mailed to you.

Hope you will join us on the air or in person Saturday.

*Jacki, KI6QOG, President*

**MARC meeting @8 AM Saturday, 15 Aug, at the Club Radio Room (masks required) and on the Club repeater.**

**Social distancing to be observed. Bring your own chair and beverage.**

**No sharing of food or drink.**

**Be safe!**



***Birthdays for the month of August:***

***K9JGB - Grant Black***

***N9CHY - Cy Young***

***W9WMJ - Marty Justis***

***KZ9H - Joe Castro***

***K9JRB - Jim Bricker***

***KG9WTF - Tony Gomez***

**Article IX Duties of Officers** 1. The duties of the President shall be to conduct all meetings according to adopted rules, to enforce observances of such rules, to decide questions of order (seeking parliamentary assistance if desired), to sign all official documents, handle emergency matters with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, and to perform all other customary duties pertaining to the office. 2. The duties of the Vice President shall be to assume presidential duties if the need arises, and to be of general assistance to the President. Additionally, the Vice President shall be responsible for the recruitment of new Club Members, and retention of current Membership. 3. Duties of the Secretary shall be to keep records of the proceedings of all meetings, to report to the Membership the minutes of the meetings, to carry on all correspondence and report appropriately to the Membership.

Correspondence is understood to include matters relating to meetings. 4. The duties of the Treasurer shall be to receive and expend monies, receive applications and fees for Membership, keep proper records of all financial matters, keep an accurate record of Members and their dues status, make financial reports at Club meetings and as otherwise requested. In general the Treasurer shall pay only those monies authorized by the Membership at Club meetings. However, there shall be established a petty cash fund for the payment, without authorization, of routine and incidental expenses. The President shall arrange for the Treasurer's books to be reviewed annually. 5. The duties of the Repeater Trustee shall be to authorize and supervise the use of any Club call sign, to be accountable for Club equipment, provide continuity and guidance relating to changes in this office, to maintain such records as are necessary, and to be the chief contact person between the Club and any regulatory governmental agencies. The Repeater Trustee shall be responsible for the proper legal use of privileges granted by the Club license in accordance with FCC Rules (47 CFR Part 97), have final say only in all aforementioned legal matters, and shall submit a report at each monthly meeting. The Trustee shall hold a valid Amateur Radio license of General Class or higher. 6. At the end of any officer's term, all Club materials and any useful records pertaining to that office in the officer's possession shall be given to the officer's successor. The President shall be responsible for oversight of this transfer of information and resources. Club records shall be kept a minimum of three (3) years or as otherwise stated in current State and Federal corporation laws. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for designating a safe place for keeping Club records. Records should be retained in both print and digital formats whenever feasible. *Mid-State Amateur Radio Club By-Laws (2018)*

## MARC 2020 Meeting held in garage

In an effort to bring MARC members back together the July 2020 meeting was held in the sally port of the Johnson county Prosecutor's office. The face to face meeting was brought to order by Club President Jacki, KI6QOG at 8am July 18<sup>th</sup>.



This was the first face to face, masked, simulcast club meeting in 2020. The Covid-19 threat has kept members shut out of the usual REMC meeting room. For the past three months club meetings have been held via 2-meter radio using the W9MID club repeater.



The July meeting incorporated the use of two radios at the garage site with on site club members voicing their call sign and questions while practicing social distancing and wearing a mask. Twelve MARC members gathered in the garage while another dozen checked in via the club repeater.

## Repeater Trustee, Chris-KQ9Y jury rigged a long

microphone extension so those attending meeting could check-in and voice their comments to the

officers and to the club members monitoring at home.



For those attending the Franklin meeting it was a tough road to navigate. Multiple street closures made it difficult to reach the meeting site. Attendees

kept their distance in the room while both garage doors were closed three quarters of the way to limit possible spread of the virus. Each participant was required to wear a mask, bring a chair and provide their own coffee and donuts.



VE testing was held for the first time since the Pandemic started. Seven candidates tested for new and advanced license



classes. All future VE sessions will be by reservation only. No walk-ins will be accepted according to Scott-W9DBA.

Depending on future restrictions the club will continue meeting On the Air and in person when possible. Monitor the weekly 7pm Sunday night Net for updated information.

### Second radio for crowd input.



Lots of Social  
Distancing



FRANKLIN HAD MOST STREETS CLOSED  
THAT LEAD TO MEETING.

Pictures & text by Jack W8ISH

## HAM SHACK OF THE MONTH



This is the ham shack of Bruce Tisdale (K9ICP). My primary radio is a Yaesu FT-1000 mp Mark V Field with matching speak. It allows operations from 160 meters through 10 meters. I also use a Yaesu FT-450 as a backup radio (not pictured).

I normally operate around 100 watts. I also have a linear amp for more power but prefer not using it. The headphone is a Heil Proset-4. My antennas are a DX Engineering hexbeam on a tower outside at about 45 feet (used for 20-10 meters) and a G5RV wire (used with tuner for 80-40 meters). The rotor for the hexbeam is on the top shelf next to the antenna switch.

You also have Yaesu FT-7900 which is my base radio for 2 meters and 440. The power amp for this radio is an Aston RS-50m (capacity of up to 50 amps).

That's my ham shack. I hope others will share theirs in coming months.

Bruce (K9ICP)

## **ARRL Hires Paul Z. Gilbert, KE5ZW, as Director of Emergency Management**

As another step in ARRL's increased focus on strengthening its emergency communications capabilities and long-standing working relationships with federal and state agencies and private emergency response organizations, ARRL has hired Paul Z. Gilbert, KE5ZW, of Cedar Park, Texas, as its first Director of Emergency Management.

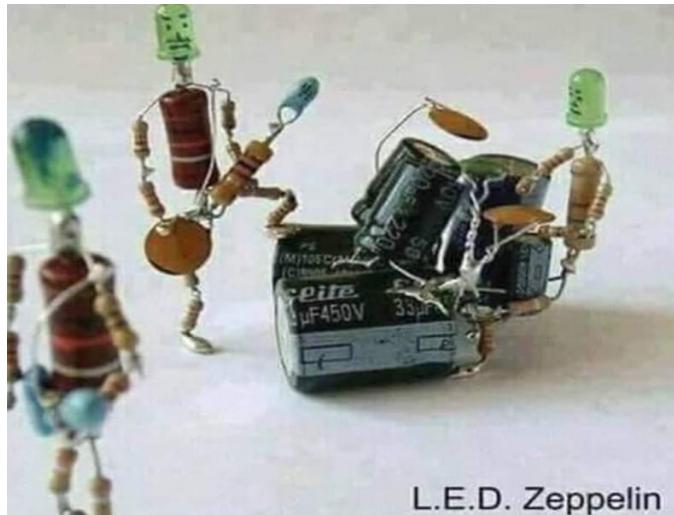
Gilbert brings more than 30 years of experience in public service in both his professional and amateur radio endeavors. Beginning with his appointment as Emergency Coordinator in 1987, he has held multiple positions in the ARRL Field Organization. Currently in his second term as South Texas Section Manager, he has also served for more than a decade as the West Gulf Division's Assistant Director for Public Service, acting as liaison between Division leadership and local, state, and federal emergency management organizations.

Professionally, Gilbert most recently was Radio Officer, HQ Staff, for the Texas State Guard, where for the past 6 years he has been responsible for planning and implementation of the organization's communications capabilities. Previously he was a Public Safety Radio Coordinator for a Texas agency, charged with overseeing that organization's large-scale disaster communications response and identifying and eliminating in-state interoperability issues.

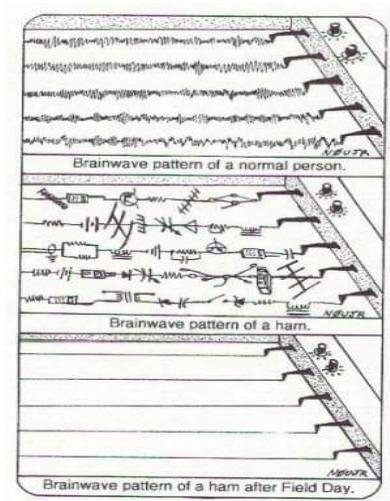
Gilbert, who has an Amateur Extra-class license, is a member of Army MARS, and holds numerous DHS certifications, including COML, COMT, COMT Instructor, and AUXCOM Communicator. He is a member of the FEMA Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group (RECCWG), a graduate of the FEMA Emergency Management Institute's Exercise Design Course, and was a founding member of the Texas Division of Emergency Management Communications Coordination Group.

In his new role, Gilbert will manage a team responsible for supporting ARRL Emergency Communications (EmComm) programs and services, including the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) and National Traffic System (NTS), as well as lead the continued modernization of those programs in consonance with the future emergency communications needs of the public and ARRL's key partners.

## HAM RADIO FUNNIES



02221986



# Tech Classes Move Online

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I've been teaching ham classes for more than a dozen years now. My specialty has been the one-day Tech class. In this type of class, you review all of the questions in the question pool with the students over the course of six to eight hours, and then immediately give them the test before they can forget anything.

I would hold these classes three or four times a year and regularly have 20 – 30 students in each class. The pandemic, of course, has put the kibosh on these classes. The last one I taught was in January.

Frankly, I was wondering if I'd ever teach one again. A little over a month ago, however, I was approached by a fellow in Portland, Oregon about teaching an online class for some folks that he'd corralled there. After giving it some thought, I said yes.

So, now, in place of face-to-face classes, I'm teaching online Tech classes. There are plusses and minuses to this approach. One negative is that I miss the face-to-face interaction with the students. On the plus side, teaching online allows me to offer classes more frequently. My first was in June. Last week, I completed the second class, and in August, I will teach a third class.

I have had to make some changes to the format. Making people sit in front of a computer for six hours or more seemed like cruel and unusual punishment. So, instead of a one-day class, the online class consists of four, two-hour sessions, spanning two weeks:

- Session 1
  - Electrical Principles
  - Electronic Components and Circuit Diagrams
- Session 2
  - Radio Wave Characteristics
  - Antennas and Feed Lines
- Session 3
  - Amateur Radio Signals
  - Electrical Safety
  - Amateur Radio Practices and Station Setup
- Sessions 4
  - Station Equipment
  - Operating Procedures
  - Rules and Regulations

This seems to be working out pretty well. I'm using Zoom, and most people have been able to attend without too much hassle. To simulate the whiteboard that I use extensively in the face-to-face class, I'm using the Autodesk Sketchbook program (<https://www.sketchbook.com/>) and sharing my screen with the Zoom meeting attendees. To write on the "whiteboard," I'm using a Gaomon M10K2018 drawing tablet.

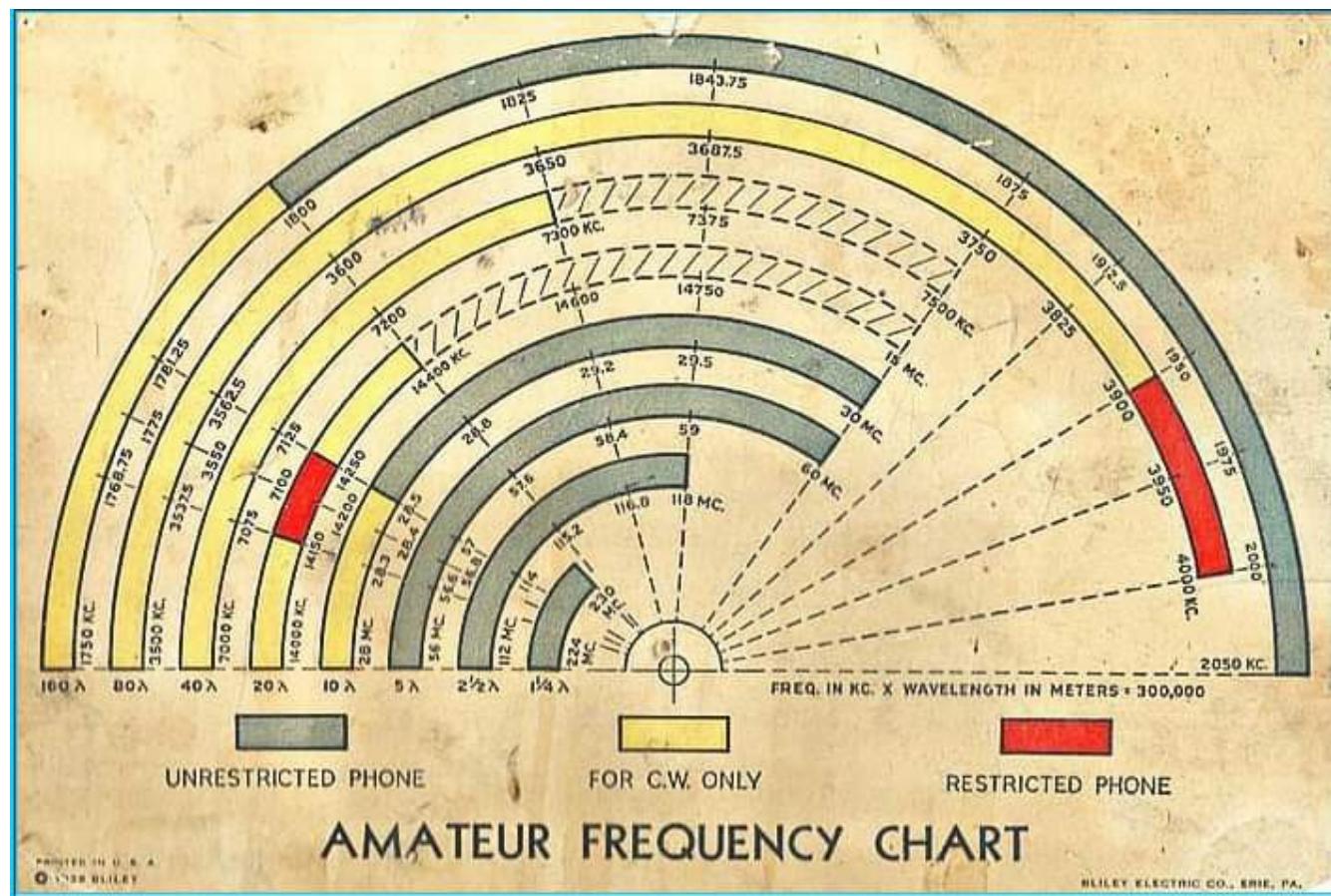
Sketchbook allows me to build up a document in layers, and the result is kind of a hybrid PowerPoint presentation and whiteboard. I can make layers appear when I start discussing a particular topic and then write over them. For example, when I go over the questions that use Ohm's Law to calculate current in a circuit, I display the later with " $E = I \times R$ " and on a second layer, show how to calculate the answers to the questions

To take the test, students have to sign up for an online test session. Fortunately, several VE groups are offering online, remote testing. To sign up for one of these sessions, all students have to do is go to <https://hamstudy.org/sessions>. For the first two classes, the W5YI VEC scheduled a special test session.

I foresee teaching these classes monthly until the demand wanes. The next class will start on Monday, August 3. To register for the class, go to <https://www.kb6nu.com/product/next-online-tech-class/>. To find out when these classes will take place in the future, potential students can sign up for my mailing list by going to <https://landing.mailerlite.com/webforms/landing/m6l6t4>.

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog ([KB6NU.Com](http://KB6NU.Com)), the “No Nonsense” amateur radio license study guides ([KB6NU.Com/study-guides/](http://KB6NU.Com/study-guides/)), and often appears on the ICQPodcast ([icqpodcast.com](http://icqpodcast.com)). When he's not teaching ham radio classes, he likes to operate CW on the HF bands, go for long walks around Ann Arbor, MI, and volunteer for Rotary Club service projects.

## **OLD AMATEUR RADIO FREQUENCY CHART**



# Hamfests

- **East-Central Indiana Hamfest (Randolph County)**

Sat 08-15 8:00am

NEW DATE ----- AUG 15

Randolph County Amateur Radio Club SECOND TAILGATE HAMFEST. TO be held at the Randolph County 4-H County Fairgrounds, 1855 US Hwy 27, Winchester, IN.

Talk-In: 147.300 + (110.9PL)

Indoor & Outdoor spaces are FREE! Donations are welcome.

VE Testing 10am - 2pm --- \$14.00

Food & Beverage vendors.

Free indoor spaces with tables provided

Craft Sales!

FREE ADMISSION

FREE PARKING

Door Prizes!

Email: [wd9exz@gmail.com](mailto:wd9exz@gmail.com)

(765) 329-2181

- **Hoosier Hills (Bedford) Hamfest**

Sat 11-07 8:00am

The Hoosier Hills (Bedford) Hamfest is the first Saturday in November at the Lawrence County 4H Fairgrounds, just off of US-50, west of SR-37.

Talk-in is on the 146.730 (107.2PL) Repeater in Bedford.

<http://www.w9qyq.org/hamfest>

Hourly door prizes PLUS

ARRL Store Gift Certificates \*

Hamfest Grand Prize is \$200.00 in cash.+

- **Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo**

Sat 11-21 9:00am

ARRL Indiana State Convention

<http://www.acarts.com/hfmain.htm>

The 2020 Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo will be open to the public from 9 AM to 4 PM on Saturday November 21, and from 9 AM to 2 PM on Sunday, November 22. Admission is only \$6.00 per person (good for both days), or \$3.00 for just Sunday, and there is plenty of parking in a large, paved parking lot, but please note that the Coliseum charges a \$5.00 parking fee. Children 11 and under are free with an adult.



## MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY of each month at the Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

See our website, [www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org), for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

**W9MID Repeater:**

146.835/  
146.235 MHz  
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

**Club Officers:**

President: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG  
Vice President: Bruce Tisdale – K9ICP  
Secretary: Chris Read – W9OQ  
Treasurer: Chris Mazzarella – KC9VGQ  
Repeater Trustee - Chris Frederick – KQ9Y

**W9MID Repeater:**

443.525/  
448.525 MHz  
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

**Weekly Net:** Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS  
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

**The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club**

P.O. Box 836  
Franklin, Indiana  
46131

**Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU**

*Please send your articles to my email: [n9siu@yahoo.com](mailto:n9siu@yahoo.com) no later than the 2nd week of the month.*



*Special thanks to Johnson County REMC for the use of their community room for meetings and testing.*